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### UM lecture series features wildlife ecologist

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 5, 2000

**Contact:** Dan Pletscher, UM forestry professor, (406) 243-6364.

### **UM LECTURE SERIES FEATURES WILDLIFE ECOLOGIST**

#### **MISSOULA —**

The next installment of the President's Lecture Series at The University of Montana will feature prominent wildlife ecologist Anthony R.E. Sinclair, who has studied Africa's Serengeti plains ecosystem for 35 years. Sinclair's lecture, "Why Conserve Biodiversity," will be Monday, Oct. 16, at 8 p.m. in the University Theatre. The event is free and open to the public.

Earlier that day, he will present a faculty seminar titled "Protected Areas as Biodiversity Baselines: The Long-term Dynamics of the Serengeti Ecosystem" from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 106.

Sinclair is a zoology professor and director of the Centre for Biodiversity Research at the University of British Columbia. Since 1965 he has conducted research in Serengeti, Tanzania, focusing on what determines the size of animal populations, particularly vertebrates, and the management of those populations.

This work has expanded over the years to look at the entire ecosystem, documenting how the different components of soils, plants, herbivores and predators interact. Sinclair works to conserve the area through good scientific documentation and advice to the Tanzania National Park authorities.

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He also has studied the ecosystem of Kluane National Park in Yukon, Canada, since 1976. This work examines the workings of the northern spruce forests, especially what causes the 10-year cycle of snowshoe hare numbers.

Sinclair has developed an international reputation as an expert on how ecosystems work, how human disturbance interferes with the balance of nature and how societies should conduct the conservation of the environment.

Sinclair was born in Zambia, Africa, to parents from New Zealand. He attended England's Pembroke College before going on to work as a research officer at Oxford University, a staff ecologist at Tanzania's Serengeti Research Institute and a research scientist with an Australian government research organization. He joined the department of zoology at the University of British Columbia in 1975, becoming a full professor in 1987 and director of the Centre for Biodiversity Research in 1996.

An accomplished author, Sinclair has written 79 scientific papers, 12 symposia papers, four books, 14 book chapters and various articles and book reviews.

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